

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ABF-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 SP-02 /049 W
-----300338Z 027228 /73

R 300312Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7662
USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, UNHCR, TH
SUBJ: FINANCING OF UNHCR CY77 PROGRAM IN THAILAND

REF: (A) GENEVA 9268 (B) BANGKOK 31839 (C) STATE 285140

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BANGKOK PRESS DECEMBER 29 CARRIES REMARKS OF INTERIOR UNDERSECRETARY CHALO WANNAPHUTI, STATING THAT UNHCR HAS NOT RPT NOT APPROVED RTG REQUEST FOR 160 MILLION BAHT (\$8 MILLION) TO CARE FOR INDOCHINA REFUGEES IN THAILAND IN 1977. HE SAID RTG HAS ONLY ENOUGH UNHCR MONEY REMAINING TO FEED REFUGEES ANOTHER MONTH. HE ALSO DECLARED HIS OPPOSITION TO PRINCIPLE OF GRANTING ASYLUM, TO BE DISCUSSED AT JAN 10 UN CONFERENCE ON TERRITORIAL ASYLUM.

2. ACTING UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE MORRIS ADVISES THAT SITUATION IS NOT EXACTLY THAT OUTLINED BY CHALO. MORRIS SAID RTG AND

UNHCR HAVE BEEN REVIEWING DURING PAST TWO WEEKS FINAL SIZE OF 1977 PROGRAM. BOTH SIDES APPEAR TO HAVE SETTLED ON FIGURE FOR IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM EXPENDITURES WHICH MAY BE SLIGHTLY OVER \$1 MILLION ADDITIONAL TO UNHCR'S ORIGINAL PROJECTION TRANSMITTED REF A. UNHCR IS CURRENTLY AWAITING RTG AGREEMENT TO
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THE NEGOTIATED BUDGET BEFORE TRANSMITTING IT TO GENEVA.

3. EMBASSY NOTED IN REF B OUR CONCERN OVER WHETHER UNHCR HAS ADEQUATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1977. CONVERSATION WITH MORRIS CONFIRMS THAT THIS REMAINS VERY LEGITIMATE CAUSE FOR CONCERN. EXCEPT FOR SOME OR

ALL OF RECENTLY ANNOUNCED FRG GIFT OF APPROXIMATELY \$400,000,
WHICH UNHCR BANGKOK HOPES WILL BE TRANSFERRED HERE SOON, UNHCR
BANGKOK KNOWS OF NO OTHER MONEY ANYWHERE IN THE PIPELINE WHICH CAN
BE USED HERE, ONCE PRESENT FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED IN MID-JANUARY.
EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSEES CAN PROVIDE
ON STATUS OF FUNDING, INCLUDING OUR OWN REVISED PLANS TO
CONTRIBUTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO34768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760475-1008
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976121/aaaaaaucl
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GENEVA 9268, 77 BANGKOK 31839, 77 STATE 285140
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINANCING OF UNHCR CY77 PROGRAM IN THAILAND
TAGS: SREF, TH, UNHCR
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006